

Robert Underwood Johnson papers

S737

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March 30, 2015

Describing Archives: A Content Standard

Rare Books and Manuscripts
140 North Senate Avenue
Indianapolis, Indiana, 46204
317-232-3671

Table of Contents

<u>Summary Information</u>	3
<u>Biographical Note</u>	4
<u>Scope and Contents</u>	4
<u>Arrangement</u>	5
<u>Administrative Information</u>	5
<u>Controlled Access Headings</u>	6

Summary Information

Repository	Rare Books and Manuscripts
Creator	Johnson, Robert Underwood, 1853-1937
Title	Robert Underwood Johnson papers
Date	1897-1931, undated
Extent	0.01 Cubic feet 1 folder
Language	English
Text [Folder]	S737

Preferred Citation

Robert Underwood Johnson papers, Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library

Biographical Note

Robert Underwood Johnson was born on January 12, 1853 to Nimrod H. and Catherine [Katharin] Coyle Underwood Johnson in Washington, D.C. He had a brother, Henry U. who became a United States congressman. Robert grew up in Centerville, Indiana and received a Bachelors of Science from Earlham College in 1871. He was employed by Charles Scribner's Sons in 1873. He married Katherine McMahon of Washington, D.C. in 1876 and they had two children. He became an associate editor of the *Century Magazine* in 1881, editor in chief in 1903 and remained on staff until 1913. He co-edited *Battles and leaders of the Civil War* and persuaded General Grant to write his memoirs, which became a great financial success.

He served as United States ambassador to Italy from 1920-1921 and was active in coordinating Italy's post-war recovery. He was an advocate for Yosemite National Park and in the revision of international copyright laws, for which he was decorated by the French and Italian governments. He received an honorary Ph.D. from Earlham College in 1889, an A.M. from Yale in 1891 and an L.H.D. from New York University in 1911. He was a poet, active in many literary organizations, and wrote an autobiography, *Remembering Yesterday*. He was a board member of the Hall of Fame for Great Americans.

He died Oct. 14, 1937 and is buried in Stockbridge Cemetery, Stockbridge, MA.

"Johnson, Catherine Coyle Underwood". Find a Grave Memorial. Retrieved 2015/03/02. <http://www.findagrave.com>

"Johnson, Robert". 1870 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2015/03/02. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Johnson, Robert [W]". 1860 United States Federal Census. Retrieved 2015/03/02. <http://search.ancestrylibrary.com>

"Johnson, Robert Underwood". Find a Grave Memorial. Retrieved 2015/03/02. <http://www.findagrave.com>

"Johnson, Robert Underwood". (1949) In *Indiana Authors and their books, 1816-1916: biographical sketches of authors who published during the first century of Indiana statehood, with lists of their books.* (pp. 169-170). Crawfordsville, IN: Wabash College. Print. ISLI 16.810 B291I

Robert Underwood Johnson Papers. New York Public Library. Retrieved 2015/03/02. <http://www.nypl.org/sites/default/files/archivalcollections/pdf/johnsonru.pdf>

Scope and Contents

This collection includes typed and signed letters from Robert Underwood Johnson in New York City, New York ranging from 1897 to 1931 regarding the literary business; a typed, signed letter from Albert H. Dotaw in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1924 regarding Robert Underwood Johnson's autobiography, and an autographed, unsigned poem, undated.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged chronologically.

Administrative Information

Publication Information

Rare Books and Manuscripts

Conditions Governing Access

This collection is open for research.

Conditions Governing Use

Legal title, copyright, and literary rights reside with Rare Books and Manuscripts, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis, IN. All requests to publish or quote from manuscripts must be submitted to Rare Books and Manuscripts.

Custodial History

This collection was received by Rare Books and Manuscripts as a purchase from Walter R. Benjamin (George Ade letter) on 1950/09/13; other items were donated.

Accruals

No further additions are expected.

Processing Information

Collection processing completed 2015/03/02 by Edythe Huffman. EAD finding aid created 2015/03/02 by Edythe Huffman.

Controlled Access Headings

Geographic Name(s)

- New York City (N.Y.)
- Philadelphia (Pa.)

Personal Name(s)

- Ade, George, 1866-1944
- Dotaw, Albert H.

Subject(s)

- American literature--19th century
- American literature--20th century
- American poetry--19th century
- American poetry--20th century
- Correspondence